(a) whether Government have decided to put end to the migration of people from rural to urban areas and decided to provide jobs to youth in villages including those in the far-flung areas and put an end to Inspector Raj;

(b) if so, the concrete proposals worked out in this regard; and

(c) by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) all over the country for promoting rural industries. One of the objectives of this programme is to reduce migration from rural to urban areas. Under this programme Capital Subsidy in the form of Margin Money is provided to the beneficiaries for setting up labour intensive industries. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. For disadvantaged sections *viz.* SC/ST/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill.border and tribal areas, North-East Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, there is a higher margin money grant. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and on a selective basis through Cooperative Banks and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks.

The Government is also proposing to bring a Single Law for all SSIs. The draft of the Small Enterprises Development Bill, *inter-alia,* seeks to reduce the rigour of labour related inspections on SSIs, which would result in an end to the Inspector Raj problem.

Labourers in agro and rural industries

t903. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to know through any survey about the number of labourers that have been working in the existing agro and rural industries;

(b) if so, total number of labourers engaged in this sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is possibility for more employment generation in this sector; and

(d) if so, the possibilities and the plan proposed by Government for realizing the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has entrusted a study on a random sampling basis to a Research Agency mainly in order to ascertain the size of village industries sector in the country. The preliminary result of the study shows that the total number of labourers engaged in village industries sector as on 31.3.2004, is 47.81 million.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With the strengthening of the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), it is possible to generate more employment in the village industries sector. During the Tenth Plan, the target for REGP has been enhanced from 2.0 million to 2.5 million jobs.

Expansion of rural industries

904. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those agro and rural industries in the States which still have sufficient possibility for development and expansion at local level;

(b) if so, the names of those ten industries which are likely to be developed to the maximum alongwith names of the respective States;

(c) the average annual value of production generated by these industries in each State; and

(d) the percentage of increase likely to be achieved after their expansion?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise list often major

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